

By Senator Grimsley

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to military and veteran support;  
3           creating s. 295.156, F.S.; requiring the Department of  
4           Veterans' Affairs, subject to appropriation, to  
5           contract with individuals and entities to provide  
6           alternative treatment options for certain veterans;  
7           defining the term "alternative treatment"; requiring  
8           alternative treatment to be provided under the  
9           direction and supervision of certain licensed  
10          individuals; requiring a contracted individual or  
11          entity to submit an annual report to the department;  
12          amending s. 454.021, F.S.; authorizing the Supreme  
13          Court of Florida to admit on motion a bar applicant  
14          who is the spouse of a servicemember stationed in this  
15          state under certain circumstances; providing for  
16          construction; amending s. 1012.56, F.S.; requiring the  
17          Department of Education to expedite the processing of  
18          an application for educator certification submitted by  
19          the spouse of a servicemember stationed in this state;  
20          requiring the State Board of Education to adopt rules  
21          regarding extending validity of a temporary  
22          certificate if the applicant is the spouse of a  
23          servicemember stationed in this state; providing  
24          legislative findings and intent regarding continuing  
25          education for veterans of the United States Armed  
26          Forces; providing legislative intent to require  
27          collaboration between the State Board of Education and  
28          the Board of Governors of the State University System  
29          in achieving specified goals regarding educational

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

30 opportunities for veterans; providing an effective  
31 date.

32  
33 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

34  
35 Section 1. Section 295.156, Florida Statutes, is created to  
36 read:

37 295.156 Alternative treatment options for veterans.-

38 (1) Subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of  
39 Veterans' Affairs shall contract with one or more individuals,  
40 corporations not for profit, state universities, or Florida  
41 College System institutions that have a background in veterans'  
42 health care to provide alternative treatment options for  
43 veterans who have been certified by the United States Department  
44 of Veterans Affairs or any branch of the United States Armed  
45 Forces as having a traumatic brain injury or posttraumatic  
46 stress disorder. For purposes of this section, the term  
47 "alternative treatment" means a therapeutic service that is not  
48 part of the standard of medical care established by the United  
49 States Department of Veterans Affairs for treating traumatic  
50 brain injury or posttraumatic stress disorder but has been shown  
51 by at least one scientific or medical peer-reviewed study to  
52 have some positive effect on traumatic brain injury or  
53 posttraumatic stress disorder. Alternative treatment must be  
54 provided under the direction and supervision of an individual  
55 licensed under chapter 458, chapter 459, chapter 460, chapter  
56 464, chapter 490, or chapter 491.

57 (2) Each contracted individual or entity shall report  
58 annually to the department each type of alternative treatment

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

59 provided, the number of veterans served, and the treatment  
60 outcomes.

61 Section 2. Subsection (4) is added to section 454.021,  
62 Florida Statutes, to read:

63 454.021 Attorneys; admission to practice law; Supreme Court  
64 to govern and regulate.—

65 (4) (a) The Supreme Court of Florida may admit on motion an  
66 applicant as an attorney at law authorized to practice law in  
67 this state if the applicant is a spouse of a servicemember, as  
68 that term is defined in s. 250.01, stationed in this state upon  
69 certification by the Florida Board of Bar Examiners that the  
70 applicant meets the following requirements:

71 1. Is registered in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility  
72 Reporting System established by the United States Department of  
73 Defense;

74 2. Holds a Juris Doctor or Bachelor of Laws from a law  
75 school accredited by the American Bar Association;

76 3. Is licensed to practice law in another state, the  
77 District of Columbia, or a territory of the United States after  
78 having passed a written exam;

79 4. Can establish that he or she is a member in good  
80 standing in all jurisdictions in which he or she is licensed to  
81 practice law and that he or she is not currently subject to  
82 discipline or a pending disciplinary matter relating to the  
83 practice of law;

84 5. Can demonstrate his or her presence in this state as a  
85 spouse of a servicemember; and

86 6. Has otherwise fulfilled all requirements for admission  
87 to practice law in this state.

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

88       (b) The Supreme Court of Florida may specify circumstances  
89 under which the license and authorization to practice law in  
90 this state of an attorney admitted in accordance with paragraph  
91 (a) terminates.

92       (c) In the event of a conflict between this subsection and  
93 any rule regulating The Florida Bar authorizing the spouse of a  
94 servicemember to practice law in this state, the provisions of  
95 the rule shall prevail.

96       Section 3. Subsections (1) and (7) of section 1012.56,  
97 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

98       1012.56 Educator certification requirements.—

99       (1) APPLICATION.—Each person seeking certification pursuant  
100 to this chapter shall submit a completed application containing  
101 the applicant's social security number to the Department of  
102 Education and remit the fee required pursuant to s. 1012.59 and  
103 rules of the State Board of Education. Pursuant to the federal  
104 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act  
105 of 1996, each party is required to provide his or her social  
106 security number in accordance with this section. Disclosure of  
107 social security numbers obtained through this requirement is  
108 limited to the purpose of administration of the Title IV-D  
109 program of the Social Security Act for child support  
110 enforcement.

111       (a) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue  
112 within 90 calendar days after receipt of the completed  
113 application a professional certificate to a qualifying applicant  
114 covering the classification, level, and area for which the  
115 applicant is deemed qualified and a document explaining the  
116 requirements for renewal of the professional certificate. If the

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

117 applicant is the spouse of a servicemember, as that term is  
118 defined in s. 250.01, stationed in this state and if the  
119 applicant holds a current professional standard teaching  
120 certificate issued by another state, the department shall  
121 expedite the processing of the application and issue a  
122 certificate to a qualifying applicant within 60 calendar days  
123 after receipt of the completed application.

124 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to a  
125 qualifying applicant within 14 calendar days after receipt of a  
126 request from an employer with a professional education  
127 competence demonstration program pursuant to paragraphs (6)(f)  
128 and (8)(b). The temporary certificate must cover the  
129 classification, level, and area for which the applicant is  
130 deemed qualified. The department shall electronically notify the  
131 applicant's employer that the temporary certificate has been  
132 issued and provide the applicant an official statement of status  
133 of eligibility at the time the certificate is issued.

134 (c) Pursuant to s. 120.60, the department shall issue  
135 within 90 calendar days after receipt of the completed  
136 application, if an applicant does not meet the requirements for  
137 either certificate, an official statement of status of  
138 eligibility. If the applicant is the spouse of a servicemember,  
139 as that term is defined in s. 250.01, stationed in this state,  
140 the department shall issue a statement of status of eligibility  
141 within 60 calendar days after receipt of the completed  
142 application if such applicant does not meet the requirements for  
143 either certificate.

144  
145 The statement of status of eligibility must be provided

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

146 electronically and must advise the applicant of any  
147 qualifications that must be completed to qualify for  
148 certification. Each method by which an applicant can complete  
149 the qualifications for a professional certificate must be  
150 included in the statement of status of eligibility. Each  
151 statement of status of eligibility is valid for 3 years after  
152 its date of issuance, except as provided in paragraph (2)(d).

153 (7) TYPES AND TERMS OF CERTIFICATION.—

154 (a) The Department of Education shall issue a professional  
155 certificate for a period not to exceed 5 years to any applicant  
156 who fulfills one of the following:

157 1. Meets all the requirements outlined in subsection (2).

158 2. For a professional certificate covering grades 6 through  
159 12:

160 a. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h).

161 b. Holds a master's or higher degree in the area of  
162 science, technology, engineering, or mathematics.

163 c. Teaches a high school course in the subject of the  
164 advanced degree.

165 d. Is rated highly effective as determined by the teacher's  
166 performance evaluation under s. 1012.34, based in part on  
167 student performance as measured by a statewide, standardized  
168 assessment or an Advanced Placement, Advanced International  
169 Certificate of Education, or International Baccalaureate  
170 examination.

171 e. Achieves a passing score on the Florida professional  
172 education competency examination required by state board rule.

173 3. Meets the requirements of paragraphs (2)(a)-(h) and  
174 completes a professional preparation and education competence

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

175 program approved by the department pursuant to paragraph (8) (c).  
176 An applicant who completes the program and is rated highly  
177 effective as determined by his or her performance evaluation  
178 under s. 1012.34 is not required to take or achieve a passing  
179 score on the professional education competency examination in  
180 order to be awarded a professional certificate.

181 (b) The department shall issue a temporary certificate to  
182 any applicant who completes the requirements outlined in  
183 paragraphs (2) (a)-(f) and completes the subject area content  
184 requirements specified in state board rule or demonstrates  
185 mastery of subject area knowledge pursuant to subsection (5) and  
186 holds an accredited degree or a degree approved by the  
187 Department of Education at the level required for the subject  
188 area specialization in state board rule.

189 (c) The department shall issue one nonrenewable 2-year  
190 temporary certificate and one nonrenewable 5-year professional  
191 certificate to a qualified applicant who holds a bachelor's  
192 degree in the area of speech-language impairment to allow for  
193 completion of a master's degree program in speech-language  
194 impairment.

195  
196 Each temporary certificate is valid for 3 school fiscal years  
197 and is nonrenewable. However, the requirement in paragraph  
198 (2) (g) must be met within 1 calendar year of the date of  
199 employment under the temporary certificate. Individuals who are  
200 employed under contract at the end of the 1 calendar year time  
201 period may continue to be employed through the end of the school  
202 year in which they have been contracted. A school district shall  
203 not employ, or continue the employment of, an individual in a

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

204 position for which a temporary certificate is required beyond  
205 this time period if the individual has not met the requirement  
206 of paragraph (2)(g). At least 1 year before an individual's  
207 temporary certificate is set to expire, the department shall  
208 electronically notify the individual of the date on which his or  
209 her certificate will expire and provide a list of each method by  
210 which the qualifications for a professional certificate can be  
211 completed. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to  
212 allow the department to extend the validity period of a  
213 temporary certificate for 2 years when the requirements for the  
214 professional certificate, not including the requirement in  
215 paragraph (2)(g), were not completed due to the serious illness  
216 or injury of the applicant; when the applicant is the spouse of  
217 a servicemember stationed in this state; or when there are ~~or~~  
218 other extraordinary extenuating circumstances; or for 1 year if  
219 the temporary certificateholder is rated effective or highly  
220 effective based solely on a student learning growth formula  
221 approved by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to s.  
222 1012.34(8). The department shall reissue the temporary  
223 certificate for 2 additional years upon approval by the  
224 Commissioner of Education. A written request for reissuance of  
225 the certificate shall be submitted by the district school  
226 superintendent, the governing authority of a university lab  
227 school, the governing authority of a state-supported school, or  
228 the governing authority of a private school.

229 Section 4. Legislative findings and intent; continuing  
230 education of veterans of the United States Armed Forces.—The  
231 Legislature finds that many veterans of the United States Armed  
232 Forces in this state have completed training and coursework



26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

233 during their military service, including overseas deployments,  
234 resulting in tangible and quantifiable strides in their pursuit  
235 of a postsecondary degree. The Legislature further finds that  
236 the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the  
237 State University System must work together to ensure that  
238 military training and coursework are granted academic credit in  
239 order to assist veterans in continuing their educations.  
240 Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that the State  
241 Board of Education and the Board of Governors of the State  
242 University System work collaboratively to:

243 (1) Align existing degree programs, including, but not  
244 limited to, vocational and technical degrees, at each state  
245 university and Florida College System institution with  
246 applicable military training and experience to maximize academic  
247 credit awarded for such training and experience.

248 (2) Appoint and train specific faculty members within each  
249 degree program at each state university and Florida College  
250 System institution as liaisons and contacts for veterans.

251 (3) Incorporate outreach services tailored to disabled  
252 veterans into existing disability services on the campus of each  
253 state university and Florida College System institution to make  
254 available to such veterans information on disability services  
255 provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs,  
256 other federal and state agencies, and private entities.

257 (4) Facilitate statewide meetings for personnel at state  
258 universities and Florida College System institutions who provide  
259 student services to veterans to discuss and develop best  
260 practices, exchange ideas and experiences, and attend  
261 presentations by individuals with expertise in the unique needs

26-00170-18

20181566\_\_

262 of veterans.

263 (5) Make every effort to provide veterans with sufficient  
264 courses required for graduation, including, but not limited to,  
265 giving priority registration to veterans.

266 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.